

Göttinge
Altona 16 Aug. 1880

My Dear Sir.

I have got your photograph and your letter with the greatest pleasure and send you my best thanks for it. The possibility to see you here in Hamburg next year, of which your letter holds out a prospect, is a very agreeable thought for me, because I cannot go to England to meet you there. In the last years I have feared the incommodity of a voyage, because I have laboured long time under a thrombosis of the veins of my left leg, which at least has left a swelling, but hinders no more my movings. You must excuse me that I do not accept your offer about the arrangement of the Austin papers; the descriptive part of botany is not my passion, I like much more the physiological part, the evolution, the development of the growth, as you may see by that little disquisition, which I sent you together with my last letter.

I have had the same intention as you, and I would have led your attention to Prof. Lindberg at Helsingfors, if I had not been afraid to anticipate your opinion. Now as you name me the same person, I may say, that he can do this work better than any one, he likes such disquisitions, the learned Hepaticologists in Germany pay the greatest attention to the proofs, which he has given in his memoirs in "The Finland Transactions", and his Hepaticae in Hibernia lectae, with the late Professor Moore (1873), will show you that he often makes comparisons with Sullivant's Musci Alleghan. and with Austin's Hepat. Bor. Americ. If he accepts your proposition, you may depend ^{upon} that your mosses are in the best hands, you can find and you will have arranged them with the utmost accuracy. I suppose, that his ambition will be very flattered at your proposal and I wish really that he may accept it, as his glory will gain by it still more. He is the luminant star for the last

Professor Moore, who gave a Report on the Irish Hepaticae (1876); he follows partly the newer arrangement of Gray (1821), like Moore and Dr. Carrington. If there has been done any harm to Mr. Gray (Carruthers in Seemann's Journal of Botany, III. p. 297.) by the higher-standing botanists of the University in a foregoing time, the now-living botanists in England must make good the injury, which Mr. Gray has sustained. For us Germans, I think, the matter of nomenclature is quite different. The Hepaticae of Prof. Nees, 4 volumes in 8^{vo}, in German language, give a pretty entertainment to many persons; schoolmasters, foresters, country-people, with a word, & a great deal of not higher-scientifically-erudited persons find their pleasure in these plants, which are found everywhere; all these amateurs must have a system, or a book for their direction; from 1831, when the first part of Hep. Eur. was published, till now, 50 years, they are acquainted with the same name; the same system is given in Rabenhorst's books - for Saxony - in Limpricht's Cryptog. of Silesia I vol, and is retained by Prof. Leitgeb likewise, although his 6 volumes are not written for the common public. Our Synopsis Hepaticar. has the same system; Mr. Carruthers, Director of the Botanical Department, British Museum published the names of Dr. Gray October 1, 1865. - Why should we alter it? and how? The few university-scholars may learn the newer terms out of a book - which not exists - but which has only found a beginning in some small Floras, not yet finished! How tempting for Funstliex, to put every where his signature behind the altered name, and this is the same ^{thing} for every new young Dr. This has been the inclination of Austin and is the inclination of Lindberg, but the dissections and observations of the latter are altogether right and fear no microscopical power whatever!

I am an old fellow and stand to the old nomenclature of our Synopsis. I must follow on; I would never mention it in the letter to you, if I suffered not under a misfortune, at which you will laugh. You know, that Dr. Mueller, Director of the Melbourne Botanical Garden

is no persona grata for the English authorities in Melbourne, and since he has got the title „Baron“ by H. Maj. Victoria, the envy is glowing; they would like to remove him, if possible. Of course, he has sent, these 25 years, his mosses, algaes and Hepaticae, to Ham- burg; Dr. Hampe gets the mosses, Dr. Sonder the algaes and ^{just} the Hepaticae; in his last letter he begs us, to arrange a list of all these plants, every one in his part, from Australia and Tasmania and the nearest small islands (New Zealand excluded), which will be printed for the Exhibition, and the next Australian Steamer, Aug. 26, is to bring over our elaborations to Melbourne. You see my leisure and recreation have been an illusion. Wishing you and your Lady a good Voyage and a good health, I beg you, believe me.

Yours truly

Dr. Gottsche.